THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Public expenditure on higher education sector as percentage of Gross Domestic Product is 1.03 (provisional) during 2007-08.

(b) Public expenditure on education sector as a whole as percentage of GDP is higher than India in respect of some countries like U.S. A and U.K while it is lower than India in some other countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh.

(c) and (d) The Central and State Governments have a crucial role to play in the education sector. Central Government has accorded high priority to higher education and has allocated Rs.84,943 crore for it during the XI Five Year Plan which represents nine times increase over the X Five Year Plan allocation of Rs.9,500 crore. The main thrust of the XI Five Year Plan is to expand the enrolment capacity in higher education with a view to provide greater access to it while ensuring reduction in regional, social and gender imbalances and improvement in quality. Several new institutes have been set up with a view to expend the enrolment capacity in higher education. Several steps have been taken to improve the quality of education. However, education being in concurrent list of the Constitution, State Governments have also to accord similar priority and allocate suitable resources to the sector.

Implementation of OBC reservation without creamy layer

1441. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of directives recently issued by the Ministry to central educational institutions, with regard to implementation of OBC reservation without creamy layer;

(b) the details of institutions that come under Schedule Six of the Constitution;

(c) whether Government has specified any courses at the post doctoral level where reservation is not applicable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) In accordance with the order of the Supreme Court dated 14.10.2008 in the matter of IA No 3 of 2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No 35 of 2007, Ministry of Human Resource Development has issued directions vide OM No. 1-1/2008-(III)U.I(A) dated 17th October, 2008 to all Central Educational Institutions (CEIs) to ensure that seats reserved for OBCs are filled by other eligible students only if they are vacant after admitting all eligible OBC students excluding the 'creamy layer'. It was further directed that each CEI shall ensure that maximum cut off marks of OBCs are not kept lower than 10% from the cut off marks for general category candidates.

(b) Following institutions/University come under Schedule Six of the Constitution:-

(i) Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong

(ii) National Institute of Technology (NIT), Agartala

(iii) Northern-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Preference of private schools to Government schools

1442.SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government schools are dysfunctional and chaotic, the parents prefer to send their children to private schools and the children in the 6-14 age group are joining private schools, rather than those run by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the teacher absenteeism in Government schools ranges from 20 to 57 per cent in different States and the country's investment in education has increased with failed delivery system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to improve the quality of education in Government schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, being implemented in partnership with the States, seeks *inter-alia* to improve the quality of education in elementary schools through several interventions which, *inter-alia,* include recruitment of 9.09 lakhs additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in-service training of teachers for a period of 20 days every year, distribution of free text-books for primary and upper primary classes, remedial teaching for weaker students, regular academic support through Block Resource Centres (BRCs) and Cluster Resource Centers (CRCs) and monitoring and evaluation of learning outcomes. As per an independent study conducted in the academic year 2006, the absence rate in 20 States was 18.3% and 19.5% for primary and upper primary schools, respectively. As per data of 2007-08 published under District Information System for Education (DISE) 81.6 % of total enrolment in classes I - VIII is in Government and Government aided schools.

Redesign of National Literacy Mission

1443.SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has redesigned the National Literacy Mission to check relapse into illiteracy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the target set under the National Literacy Mission during the last few years has been achieved;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) the extent to which redesigning of the Mission is going to achieve the objective of full literacy in the country?